AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 3. NO. 46 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1914. WHOLE NO. 150

INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representative and Congress stand. You have a right to know.

HELP THE MI

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSED

House Approves Restriction by a Two-thirds Vote.

LITERACY TEST AGAIN INDORSED

Twelve State Legislatures and Citizens in All Walks of Life Favor the Measure.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The Burnett immigration bill, prescribing a literacy test for applicants to admission to the United States, was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 221 to 126. During a discussion of the bill an amendment was adopted providing for the exclusion of Asiatics. Many friends of the bill opposed this amendment on the ground that the literacy test was enough weight for the bill to carry without injecting the question of possible treaty violations with other countries. Later it was agreed to withdraw the amendment and the bill passed in practically its original shape. One of the chief features of the bill are its administrative features. The much-discussed literacy test provides that every immigrant physically able, can read from 30 to 40 words in some language or dialect, including Hebrew or Yiddish." It prescribes the method of testing immigrants, providing that each applicant for admission must read a slip on which is printed between thirty and forty words. Its present form is the result of compromise in the house and senate in the last Congress, but was vetoed by President Taft. The supporters of the measure predict it will pass the senate and point to the two-thirds vote received in the house as an indication of the views held by members on this subject. While the two largest organizations that participated in the passage of this bill were the American Federation of Labor and the Farmers' Co-operative and Educational Union, whose combined membership is over 5,000,000, the demand for restriction was more general. In the closing hours of debate Representative Burnett presented a list of 220 organizations covering every field of activity, that indorsed the measure. Thirty college presidents took the same position, as did thirty-one heads of other educational and scientific institutions. The following state legislatures also passed resolutions in favor of the measure: Arkansas, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

TO RESTRICT IMMIGRANTS.

Cincinnati, Feb. 14.—The Times-Star of this city comments as follows on the proposal to restrict immigration. One of the most curious arguments advanced by the opponents of the immigration bill that seems likely to become a law this winter is to the effect that it will leave America without a supply of unskilled labor. With the bars up against practically unlimited immigration, they say, there will be nobody left to do the manual labor of the United States. There are over ninety-five millions of people in the United States. Of this number with such a great mass of able-bodied and skilled people as they have to count on outsiders to carry them through the struggles of life? If it were said that the passage of a measure for restricting immigration would increase the demand for American labor and bring about a large increase in the wages paid, there might be something in the argument. If we reduce the present volume of immigration into the country from 800 to 50 or 75 per cent, the result undoubtedly will be much higher wages for American workingmen. And that would be a good, not a bad, thing. Rigid restriction of immigration would do much more to put an end to industrial unrest in this country than any proposal for political or economic change that has yet been advanced."

ONE REASON FOR UNIONISM.

New York, Feb. 14.—An income that ranges between $1,050 and $1,350 a year is necessary to support a family of five in fair comfort is the experience of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor while caring for twenty-seven families. The report says that while this income will make it possible for a family of five to live "under ordinary conditions in fair comfort" in this city, an income of between $1,100 and $1,200 is probably necessary for the average family to maintain, unaided, a normal standard of living in New York, "preserving health, self-respect, self-reliance and decent conditions of family life." In the daily budget for an average family, based on the various nationalities among whom it cares for, rent and $1.29 for food, clothing is given at 46 cents per day, and miscellaneous items bring it to the $2.90 1-2, or $1,082.25 per year for a family of five.

STRONGEST UNIONS HELP.

Los Angeles, Feb. 14.—Secretary Butler, of the central body, who has charge of the Union labor forward" movement in this city announces that the first general organization, which will receive the least direct benefits from the campaign, are more enthusiastic than those whose conditions are bad. Unionists are using this point to show the value of union activity. Over 14,000 names of non-unionists have been compiled and it is intended to make a house-to-house canvas. International unions will be asked to contribute $1 a month for the campaign, to be part of the expense for maintaining headquarters and providing literature.

HAVE STATE DEVELOP POWER.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 14.—"Public property for public profit" is the slogan of Gov. Glynn and his associates in their bills now before the legislature for the development of electricity by regulating the flow of rivers and streams and to construct and maintain reservoirs, dams and dykes with a view of utilizing waters for power purposes. Several bills covering these points will probably be prepared for presentation to the State Legislature.

CLERKS TO ORGANIZE.

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 14.—Retail Grocery Clerks in this city are organizing a union, and it is intended to later include other stores. The movement for the conference of New England clerks has received activity in this section, which is being supported by the International Association of Clerks. Retail Clerks of Canton, Ohio, have organized a union, and efforts will be made to secure and reduce the working hours and establish the early closing system.

TO START A "FORWARD."

Canton, Ohio, Feb. 14.—Trade unionists of this city have set March 1 as the date for launching their "labor forward movement," and the Central body has appointed a committee to make the campaign successful. Local unions have been asked to compile a list of non-union workers in their craft, and the various international unions will assist.

A RECORD PRICE.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 14.—The Board of Prison Commissioners indicates that as a reaction of the growing opposition to convict labor in this state they have entered to a contract with the Kentucky Broom Company for only three and one-half months. The company indicates it holds similar views by raising the price paid for this kind of labor from 6 cents to 7 cents per man, per day. The contract will begin February 1 and will run until the middle of May. An official of the commissioners states that the reason the board did not make a longer contract was that they were waiting to see what action would be taken by the state legislature. He also states that "the Kentucky Broom company formerly paid only 50 cents a day under their old contract. The present price of 15 cents is the largest figure ever paid for convict labor in the Eddyville penitentiary. This increase in price will net the state $6,200 a year more than under the old contract." The Louisville Morning Times, however, does not agree that the Prison Commissioners have made a good bargain, and says: "The state has to feed, clothe and house the laborers and to provide, at its own expense, ministers. The paper also refers to the cost of maintaining well-lighted buildings and factories, which are furnished to the contractors, all of which makes it impossible for the State to engage in the building of roads as the maximum sum of foodstuffs and maintenance and equipment of the State's institutions. "There is not a waste of good raw material under such an arrangement as well as an opportunity for every man that the State stands in need," says the paper, "then verily do appearances deceive."

HOW UNIONISM IS FOUGHT.

Indianapolis, Feb. 14.—David R. Masterson, a convicted "gun" and strike-breaker on the recent street car strike in this city, testified before the Public Service Commission that the management of the Terre Haute Traction Company employed him for what in stopping the men from organizing. Masterson swore that he was ordered to secure a list of Terre Haute union carmen, and for this purpose I forged the name of J. C. Colgan, a union leader, to a letter addressed to a conductor named Hodge, who had the list." Masterson also testified that the letter, after the commission papers he had stolen, and in obedience to the company's officials, he swore falsely that conductors who were active in the employes' interests had been discovered "knocking down" by him. These men were then discharged on Masterson's affidavits. The Terre Haute carmen are demanding higher wages and shorter hours. The company asked Federal Judge Anderson for an injunction to keep them from striking but this was afterwards withdrawn and the matter is now in the hands of the State Public Service Commission.

WOULD ENJOIN "FLINTS."

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 14.—National Organizer Gillhooley and twenty-two members of the Iron, Steel and Tin Workers in this city are defendants in injunction proceedings started by the Federal Glass Company. It asks that a restraining order be made against these workers, who are charged with "interfering with the business of the plant." The company pleads that an injunction alone will save it from great loss, for the reason that workers have made the company's plant "the common enemy." The petition makes clear that the law has been prepared with unusual care, and added: "The primary purpose of the strike is not, if not almost entirely to remove, litigation as between capital and labor over the right or duty to recognize a union, so that every consideration of public policy would suggest that the meaning of the term 'willful act,' as intended by the legislature, be written into the law so clearly that there can be no doubt in the mind of any court. Apart from this, common good faith should impel the general assembly to say in plain terms what kind of an act the official representation made when the bill was under consideration."

MAKES LEGAL PRECEDENT.

Albany, Feb. 14.—Overruling the claim that no precedent could sustain its action, the Court of Appeals has affirmed a decision of lower courts, which granted a judgment of $5,220 to George Reynolds against the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Reynolds was an extra brakeman and jumped from an engine at the direction of the engineer. Reynolds felt he was not responsible, because the danger was as obvious to Reynolds as it was to Orr. The company claimed that there was no precedent to support the action and that it should not be maintained because it would create a precedent.

A GENERAL STRIKE FIZZLE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 14.—The forty-eight hour general strike proposed by the Miners' Liberation league, has ended in a grand fizzle. The "league" consists of a small group of men who have believed they could advance the interests of striking Mexicans on the Vancouver Island coal fields, but the unfortunated members of the United Mine Workers of America, of which the "league" officers repudiated the "league," Canadian unionists are in full sympathy with the strikers, which gives them little real power. It is said, but the question of a general strike did not appeal to them as a result produce.

A COSTLY ASSAULT.

Fort Smith, Ark., Feb. 14.—In the Federal Court in this city a jury awarded Frank Jarnigan $5,000 damages for the beating he received last summer at the hands of employes of the Pennsylvania Coal company at Jamestown, near Clarksville. The jury believed the plaintiff's story that the assault was inspired by the attitude of the company toward union Miners. The jury was out only an hour.

CHAUFFEURS ORGANIZE.

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 14.—A temporary organization of chauffeurs has been perfected. Ninety members are enrolled and application for a charter has been made to the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES.

Montpelier, Vt., Feb. 14.—After refusing an increase of 25 cents, Montpelier Conductors and motormen on the Barre and Montpelier Traction company lines went on strike for increased pay and better working conditions.

ON AN EIGHT-HOUR BASIS

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—Employes of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining company have been notified that the plant will be operated on a basis of three eight-hour shifts.

BARTLETT-BACON BILL WOULD REMOVE TRADE UNIONS FROM OUTLAWED TRUSTS

Washington, Feb. 14.—Letters and newspaper clippings from various sections of the country to A. F. of L. headquarters show that opponents of the Bartlett-Bacon bill, now before Congress, are renewing their activities to again becloud this question. The bill is intended to relieve organized labor from the unjust interpretation placed upon the Sherman anti-trust law applying it to organized labor, and also to regulate the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes. Col. Harvey, editor of The North American Review, sounded the alarm in his January issue, and other protectors of privilege are now falling in line by either directly charging or indirectly suggesting that the Bartlett-Bacon bill is, in the language of one newspaper, "an attempt on the part of labor unions to secure exemption from prosecution when they violate the law." This naturally arouses resentment on the part of well-meaning citizens, who rightfully protest against special privileges for any class. This inherent consciousness of our citizenship, the trusts and their paid retainers are again bending every effort to offset the workers' demand for justice by specious pleas and misrepresentations of the Bartlett-Bacon bill, which will be triumphantly passed when once the people understand. President Gompers and other officials of the A. F. of L. are alive to the purposes and intent of men who insist that labor unions shall be classed as trusts. In his answer to one of the interests' leading spokesmen—Col. Harvey—Samuel Gompers again clearly states labor's position in this month's issue of The American Federationist. He shows that the Sherman anti-trust law was originally intended to check the monopoly of public lands, the trade unions deal not in products, but aim to control their own labor power—pulsating, throbbing life; that to class this life with things without life—products controlled by capital—is to declare that workers could only violate the Sherman anti-trust law if they entered into the manufacture of, or dealing in, products; that as the workers have succeeded in the right to strike, free rights are now denied when they would carry out the intent of associated effort; that things lawful for an individual worker cannot be unlawful when by a multitude of workers; that society agrees workers have the right to unite, but when they do unite the courts and federal grand juries tell them they violate the Sherman anti-trust law against the intent of; that interpreting the Sherman anti-trust act to apply to organizations of working men and women, organized for peaceful purposes, is misinterpretation of the act not for profit, concludes President Gompers, "workers are made the criminals. Hence, the Bartlett-Bacon bill's enactment is essential. It is within the power of American trade unionists and their sympathizers to overcome this stealthy conspiracy and position and "doubt raising" that the enemies of the Bartlett-Bacon bill are now waging. In its last national convention, at Baltimore, the Democratic party used the following words in its emphatic declaration that the principles now enunciated in the Bartlett-Bacon bill are correct:

"Experience has proved the necessity of a modification of the law relating to injunction, and we reiterate the pledges of our platforms of 1896 and 1908 in favor of a measure which passed the United States Senate in 1896, relating to contempt in Federal courts, and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

"Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with exact impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial disputes were involved.

"The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of the wage-earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade."

The Progressive party, the next largest political organization of that year, declared in its national platform:

"We believe that the issuance of injunction in cases arising out of labor disputes should be prohibited when such injunctions would not apply when no property is involved.

"We also believe that a person cited for contempt in labor disputes, except when such contempt was committed in the actual presence of the court, or near thereto, should be entitled with the proper administration of justice, should have a right to trial by jury.

"We favor the organization of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress."

At the recent Indianapolis convention of Miners, United States Senator Ollie James said that the Bartlett-Bacon bill would pass, but work is necessary. The time for the passage of this bill is now. This can be accomplished if international and national unions, trade and labor councils, organizations individual unionists and their friends send letters to their Senators and Congressmen calling attention to these platform declarations which affect the abridgement of injunctions in times of strike, and also the removal of our labor unions and the organizations of farmers from classification with industrial outlaws.

Demand the early enactment of the Bartlett-Bacon bill, S. 927 and H. R. 1875.

Insist that these platform be kept—NOW.

DEFINES "WILFUL ACT."

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 14.—The term "wilful act" in the new state compensation law has been construed contrary to what has been the cause of what friends of the measure declare to be an effort to weaken the act. Counsel for the state in a brief filed with the legislature on this subject, in which a definition was urged, and Senator Hoskins, chairman of the United Mine Workers of America, has introduced a bill to this effect in which the following definition will be written into the law: "The term 'wilful act' as employed in this section shall be interpreted to mean an act done knowingly and purposely with the direct object of injuring another." The compensation commission pleads that an injunction alone will save it from great loss, for the reason that workers have made the company's plant "the common enemy." The petition makes clear that the law has been prepared with unusual care, and added: "The primary purpose of the strike is not, if not almost entirely to remove, litigation as between capital and labor over the right or duty to recognize a union, so that every consideration of public policy would suggest that the meaning of the term 'wilful act,' as intended by the legislature, be written into the law so clearly that there can be no doubt in the mind of any court. Apart from this, common good faith should impel the general assembly to say in plain terms what kind of an act the official representation made when the bill was under consideration."

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INVESTIGATORS AT WORK

Washington, Feb. 14.—The House of Representatives has appropriated $15,000 for its Judiciary committee to make inquiries and expenses to conduct investigations in the Colorado coal fields and the Michigan copper region. The committee has divided the work into subcommittees which are now in the strike-bound fields. Clerks and deputy sergeants-at-arms to serve subpoenas and carry out orders of the committee accompany each committee, who will stay in the affected districts. It is believed, from two to three weeks, before the committee will have all the facts possible from both sides. Reports from Trinidad, Colo., indicate that the investigation is not relished by the mine owners, for it is charged that they are beginning to drive the imported strikebreakers out of the camps. They were told to "get out of the mines and out of the state." These unfortunates say that they were induced to go there by a promise of easy work and assurances that no strikes existed. The Mine Workers union will probably feed and clothe some of the strike-breakers in order that they may testify before the congressional commission.

WAITERS ARE ACTIVE.

Cleveland, Feb. 14.—The Sattler hotel of this city has agreed to the demands of the waiters in their strike for eight hours and several weeks. The hotel management secured an injunction against its employes, which at one time attracted some attention in this section. Of late, however, many officials of international trade unions have secured better conditions for their members, and the plan to have boycotting orders establish trade unions along national lines is no longer taken seriously.

AGREE ON SCHEDULE.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 14.—After a two weeks' session, representatives of the Order of Railway Telegraphers and the Southern Pacific lines east of El Paso have agreed on a revised schedule that includes wage increases, better working conditions, and changes in several offices. The conference was held in the hands of General President Perham for approval and will then be submitted to the railroad officials.

STEEL OUTPUT INCREASED.

New York, Feb. 14.—Conditions in the steel industry during January were more encouraging, with an increase of seven per cent, compared with December, and a larger gain was made in the operating rate than in any month since May. Structural steel shapes at an advance of $2 a ton, with increased orders for railroad equipment indicates a decided upward trend in the steel market.

LONG DISPUTE ENDED.

Buffalo, Feb. 14.—After fifteen years of controversy all differences have been wiped out between the Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Amalgamated Woodworkers by an agreement that marks the end of the latter union, which will henceforth be known as the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 14.—Electrical Workers in this city have signed a two-year agreement with their employers that calls for an immediate increase of 5 cents a day, and an increase of 5 cents a day in six months.

COLORED, EH!

Denver, Feb. 14.—Under the above caption the Evening Express of this city prints the following editorial: "And now we have another distinguished citizen who propounds 'immortal truths'. He is Quincy A. Shaw, president of the Calumet & Hecla Mining company. The public has never heard much about Quincy, hitherto, because Quincy has been quietly devoting himself to squeezing extraabnormal dividends for the big copper syndicate, but Quincy is a real quince, just the same, and he gets off this: 'There is likely to go thundering down the corridors of time: 'After Secretary Wilson's speech in Seattle, it was to be expected that his subordinates would make a report, which would be highly colored in favor of the strikers.' It is a tremendous discovery that Quincy has made. After Baer's speech declaring that God had put minerals in the ground as an exclusive blessing for Pennsylvania's 60, Quincy naturally succeeded Secretary Wilson to cuss the miners who wouldn't take out copper at slave wages. The 'color' of official speeches and reports has been so everlastingly pro-trust that Quincy is fully justified in believing that he has discovered a new 'color' in the Wilson administration. Behold a report 'colored' in favor of men rather than dividends! A lemon for Quincy! But, let's have some more high coloring of things in favor of laborers! The country is entering a period and may have tremendous possibilities."

ARBITRATORS FAVOR GIRLS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 14.—A board of arbitration has decided in favor of 5,000 girls employed in the big Textile mills of this city. A reduction of wages, six weeks ago, caused the girls to strike. They asserted that the cut in wages and the management finally agreed that the wage would be restored pending arbitration. The board agreed unanimously the girls returned to work. A board of arbitration was quickly formed, and after a short session agreed that the strikers' wage cut should not be sustained. The girls were ordered back in every particular. Several minor questions were adjusted and a two year's agreement signed. Secretary Tomlinson, president of the United Textile Workers, represented the girls, and Joseph Lightner, local supervisor of the State Department of Labor and Industry, was the third member. The board met immediately and steadfastly refused at first to consider arbitration but the following comment by Rufus W. Scott, textile representative, would indicate another convert to this principle has been made: "I am very much in favor of knowing about the benefits of settling labor questions by arbitration, let them come to me."

TRAINMEN RAISE WAGES.

South Bethlehem, Penn., Feb. 14.—As a result of a conference, trainmen, flagmen and baggagemen on the Lehigh Valley railroad system have been granted general wage increases. Under the new agreement trainmen will receive $2.45 for 100 miles or less, and baggagemen $2.65. The rate for 176 miles to 230 miles will be respectively $2.75 and $2.95. In work train service and similar classes there will be an increase of $2.67 per day for trainmen and flagmen. The rate was formerly $2.70 for 100 miles or less, and $2.97 per day for 176 miles or less. Engineers employed in yard service are to receive an increase of 2 cent an hour, or 10 cents for a day's work.

STENOGRAPHERS INCLUDED.

Boston, Feb. 14.—In response to a request from the Labor Board of Trade and Industries, Attorney General Boynton has ruled that women stenographers, bookkeepers and clerical assistants employed under twenty-one years of age come within the law which provides that "No child and no woman shall be employed in laboring in a mercantile establishment more than fifty-four hours in a week." The former attorney general ruled that the use of the words "in laboring" in the statute of this state in the law which limits the hours of labor of women and children engaged in manual labor and did not apply to workers in stores. The new ruling has been set aside, as it is held that the terms "work" and "labor" include every kind of human employment.

HARD WORK NECESSARY.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The Department of Agriculture has compiled the information that the farm offers an easy and profitable life. In a report, based on investigations by the department, says that high school education is a decided advantage. Hard work is necessary, however, to make a success of farming and those persons who are turning to the farm with the idea of reaping large returns "are doomed to severe disappointment," department investigators declare. A warning is also given against taking up farming as a means of getting rich quick.

A GALLANT OFFICIAL.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—The attorney for the Board of Election Commissioners has ruled that it is not necessary for women voters to tell their exact ages. "You can approximate the truth and it will do no one any harm," said the attorney. "Select a date anywhere near the age that fits your face and your figure—and tell the officials that age. It is simply a check to prevent fraud and to prevent men from impersonating you at the polls. I have known men who have been married stationary in age for fifteen years, so far as the registration looks are concerned."

TO REGULATE NEWSIES.

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 14.—Senator Hammond has introduced a bill in the State Legislature which will amend the present child labor law so as to read that no boy under ten, instead of twelve years of age, and no girl under sixteen years of age shall sell or distribute papers in cities of over 20,000 population. The bill will not include newsboys having their regular homes, but the law shall not be made during school hours.

EMPLOYES MAY RIDE FREE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 14.—In a highly important public service decision the court of this state holds that it is not illegal for railroads to issue free passes to their officers and employes to be used for the transportation of themselves and families. It is also ruled that free transportation to policemen and firemen in the discharge of their public duties is not free transportation within the meaning of the law.

BETTER CONDITIONS.

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 14.—About 1,500 employes of packing houses in this city have been benefited by an agreement just signed which carries with it an increase from $12 a week to $13 an hour. The gross have accepted the forty-five hour week, and promise to employ no one under the rates agreed to, which will mean an annual yearly increase of over $50,000.

DISCUSSES EIGHT-HOUR LAW

Writers Tell of Evils of the Long Work Day.

VIEWS OF UNIONISTS INDORSED

One Employer Favors an Eight-hour Law to Apply to Continuous Industries.

New York, Feb. 14.—In utterances similar to those of Commissioner William B. Dickson and Charles Sumner Bird, writing in The Survey, both declare that the eight-hour day is necessary and logical. Mr. Dickson is chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation. He says that the twelve-hour day in that industry makes old men at forty, and, further declares: "The principal business of each generation of men is, not to produce cheaply any article of merchandise, however important to the well-being of society this may be, nor to insure large profits to any investor, however enterprising or deserving he may be, but to live normal, human lives and to so maintain living conditions that successful generations may arise new and unhampered in keeping the same standards." Mr. Dickson answers the claim that some workers prefer the long day. But, let a more searching investigation has shown this is the view of migratory laborers whose sole aim is to accumulate money in as short a time as possible and then return to Europe. To do this "they are willing to live and work under conditions which are physically, mentally and morally debilitating. It is not reasonable to permit this class to fix standards for the big "Native" element. Speaking for the paper industry, Mr. Charles Sumner Bird says the long work day is intolerable, and that in many ways this system is as dangerous to the welfare of the state as the open saloon of the black race, because long hours taxes men beyond their strength, and is the cause of a great deal of accidents and illness. No time or energy is left for the development of the healthy home life essential to the welfare of the nation." Mr. Bird says that if a paper mill finds it necessary to work its laborers seventy-two hours a week, year in and year out, "then the sooner that mill is removed from the vicinity of human habitation, better for the men and women of the country." He urges the adoption by every state of the eight-hour law for continuous industries.

EXPLAINS SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Feb. 14.—At a meeting in the rooms of the International Seamen's Union, answered the claims of shipowners that the La Follette seaman's bill, now pending in Congress, would increase the cost of American shipowners. The unionist said, in part: "The measure does not appeal upon the port where they are hired. The foreign vessel hiring men in a foreign port pays the wages that would be paid if hired her men in American ports. Under present treaties and law the foreign vessel has the advantage of the steadfastly refusal of the United States to compel the men to remain at work at the foreign rates of wages after arriving in American ports. The power of the foreign ship to this hold the men in port is the power of the purse. The vessel must then hire another crew at the wages of the American port, or, as a result of a shortage of seamen, she must pay enough wages in the foreign port to induce the men to stay with the vessel. The result is always the higher wages, and for the first time in sixty years the American vessel will have an equal chance to get men as the interested in foreign ships know this, hence their opposition."

UNIONISTS HELP GIRLS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—In a letter to A. F. of L. headquarters, Business Agent Quinlivan, of the Toledo Central Labor Union says: "We have over 450 girls on strike at the General Electric company's plant, and we have formed them into a local affiliated to the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The girls struck because of the belief that the wages would not become general. The plan succeeded for a while, but the girls finally struck and have left on the plant idle, completely. Local unions have levied assessments upon their members per capita to carry on the fight, and last week we arranged a tag day, which netted the handsome sum of $1,000. Many of the cause of the unorganized girls has been the talk of the town, and women workers all over the city are joining the organization and praising the Central Labor union."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Burlington, Iowa, Feb. 14.—The Typographical union has signed a four-years' contract that calls for $20 for day work and $25 for night work. The old scale has been raised $1 a week. After two and one-half years the scale will be raised still to $21 and $24. Over time will be paid for at the rate of price and a half, with double time for Sunday and holidays. Pressmen in this city have organized and it is proposed to form an Allied Printing Trades council.

Dubuque, Iowa, Feb. 14.—A five years' contract, carrying substantial wage increases, has been signed by the local Typographical union and the employers. Both parties have appointed three members on a committee that will work together during the five years to settle all trade in the future, and provision is made for the apprentices' welfare.

PROTECT THEIR MEMBERS.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—The three divisions of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Association in this city, expended last month $6,000 in paying death benefits. Of this amount, but $3,747 was used for strike benefits. The largest item was for death and disability benefits, for which $5,900 was expended among 129 members, who received $45 each. Of this number, forty-nine received the maximum death benefit, $1,000, while the smallest benefit paid was $100. Members in distress through other causes were not overlooked, and $1,000 was paid in the amount of $5,853.17 were raised.

REDUCES WORK DAY.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 14.—General Organizer Thomas of the United Garment Workers reports that the Scotch Woolen Mills company, one of the largest manufacturing concerns in this city, has signed an agreement that reduces working hours from 54 to 9 a week, and increases wages 10 per cent.

IN THE A. F. OF L. FOLD.

Portland, Me., Feb. 14.—After considering an independent organization for years, the Longshoremen's union of this city has voted to join the International Longshoremen's association, affiliated to the A. F. of L. Application has been made for a charter.